



NEWS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Torpedoes Fishing License Reforms

Several weeks ago, the California Sportfishing League announced that the California Sportfishing Stimulus Act of 2015 (SB 345) may not advance in the California State Assembly this year, unless a key provision of the legislation is reintroduced.

In June, Senate Bill 345 passed the State Senate by a unanimous vote, but without a key provision that would replace California's calendar-based fishing license system with one that is valid for a full 12 months from the date of purchase. The provision aimed to provide greater value to one the costliest fishing licenses in the country.

The decision by Senate Appropriations Committee to gut a key provision of the legislation angered anglers concerned with the State's failure to recognize and provide solutions to an unprecedented decline in fishing participation. While the legislation enjoyed unprecedented support from associations representing anglers, tourism, small business and local government, the California Department of Fish and

Wildlife was the lone opponent.

“The fact that California is facing an unprecedented decline in fishing license sales is an ominous sign that anglers find fishing too expensive and less accessible than in years past,” said Marko Mlikotin, CSL’s executive director, in a press statement. “Yet, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to defend the status quo and has failed to engage the angling community in reversing a dangerous trend. Unfortunately, this failure of leadership will undermine the amount of revenue generated from fishing license sales that fund fishery management plans, fish hatcheries and conservation programs. Absent meaningful reform, fishing license sales face a death spiral.”

Be assured that CSL has not abandoned SB 345 as we work with the bill's author, Senator Tom Berryhill, to bring about real and lasting reforms.

[Click here](#) to email DFW Director Chuck Bonham to support SB 345!

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Sept. 9, 2015: The **California Fish and Game Commission's Wildlife Resource Committee** will be meeting in Fresno to discuss, among other issues, the benefits of a calendar vs. a 12-month fishing license.

Please attend. It's important for commissioners to understand that California's pricey fishing licenses are contributing to an unprecedented decline in fishing license sales and participation rates. [Click here for agenda and meeting information.](#)

September 9-16, 2015: The Pacific Fishery Management Council will be convening in Sacramento and on the agenda is the use of gill nets. If you share our concern regarding this commercial fishing practice, please attend. [Click here for agenda.](#)

TOP FISHING NEWS, & MORE

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[Sheet: Fishing License Bill Gutted](#), 7.1.15

[LA Times: Latest forecast suggests 'Godzilla El Niño' may be coming to California](#), 8.13.15

[Fish Rap: Bluefin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Dorado, Yellowtail and Albacore are Biting!](#) 8.11.15

[the Log: NOAA study find bait, tackle shops generate \\$2.3 billion for economy](#) 8.9.15

[CDFW: Changes to Recreational Tuna Regulations Now in Effect](#) 7.30.15

[OC Register: 'Fish of a lifetime': Retired firefighter from Mission Viejo snags 96-pound opah, 7.24.15](#)

12 KCOY (Santa Barbara): [Santa Barbara Fisherman Reels In Big Fish 7.25.15](#)

[Fish Sniffer: CA DFW Considers Slashing Sturgeon Fishing, 7.15](#)

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